32. **Trade.**—The total volume of external trade rose from Bh. Rs. 7,11,57,523 in 1090 to Bh. Rs. 7,27,78,754 in 1091, *i. e.*, by Bh. Rs. 16,21,231, or by 2·2 per cent. The *per capita* value of the imports was Rs. 8·6, of the exports Rs. 12·6, and of the total trade Rs. 21·2. Travancore has a favourable balance of trade, though it is mostly obtained by the export of raw materials. The development of our sea-ports to meet the inevitable on-rush of trade after the War is engaging the attention of the Government.

33. **Railway.**—The construction of the Quilon–Trivandrum Railway has made considerable progress and is almost complete, with the exception of the Paravur Bank, which is causing some engineering trouble. The amount spent on the construction of the Extension up to the end of 1916 is Bh. Rs. 32,39,831. The chief obstacle at the present moment is the difficulty of securing rolling stock for the Railway, owing to the all-absorbing demand for materials in England at this stage of the War. Every effort is being made to have the line opened as early as practicable.

TOWN IMPROVEMENT COMMITTEES.

34. In addition to the towns of Nagercoil, Quilon, Alleppey, Kottayam, Colachel, Kayankulam and Padmanabhapuram, where vaccination was compulsory, compulsory vaccination was introduced in seven more towns, *viz.*, Shencottah, Alwaye, Changanachery, Haripad, Mavelikara, Neyyattinkara and Attungal, with effect from the 1st Chingam 1092. At present, vaccination is compulsory in 14 out of the 19 Municipal towns. The working of the Alleppey Committee under its non-official President continued to be satisfactory. Government have under consideration the question of the appointment of non-official Presidents in some other towns also. Three out of six non-official seats on the Alwaye Committee and four out of seven seats on the Committees of Tiruvalla, Parur, Neyyattinkara and Padmanabhapuram have been thrown open for election, since the close of 1091. The Committees to which the privilege of election has been conceded now number twelve. Again, as a further step in the direction of local self-government, His Highness the Maha Raja has been pleased, since the close of the year, to raise the non-official seats on the Committees of Trivandrum, Shencottah and Kayankulam from seven to ten, and those on the Committees of Nagercoil, Quilon, Alleppey and Kottayam, from six to nine. No increase has been made in the number of official members on these Committees. Two of the non-official seats on the Committees have been reserved for Government nomination, with due regard to the interests of unrepresented minorities. The Town Improvement Committees of the State have been steadily growing in prosperity, as will be apparent from the following statement:—

Year.	Opening Balance. Rs.	Government Grant. Rs.	Receipts. Rs.	Expenditure. Rs.	Closing Balance. Rs.
1089	41,479	43,624	80,224	1,16,109	49,218
1090	49,218	45,338	93,997	1,29,698	58,855
1091	58,855	46,850	1,16,714	1,40,752	81,667

In view of the large balance at the disposal of the Committees of Nagercoil, Kuzhitturai and Alwaye, they have been asked to suggest measures of public utility to which the funds might be advantageously applied. It is expected that, with the passing of the Municipal Bill now under consideration, these Committees will secure more administrative and financial powers.

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